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Families and Michigan tourism would benefit with post-Labor Day school start

LANSING – Michigan parents, students and tourism-related business owners would gain by starting schools after Labor Day under legislation approved by the Senate on Tuesday, said Sen. Alan Sanborn, R-Richmond Township.

Senators approved House Bill 4803, which would require the post-Labor Day start. The new starting date would allow parents to take longer trips during the extended weekend without having their children miss school days.

“Overwhelmingly, parents are saying they’d like their children to start school after the Labor Day weekend,” Sanborn said. “Plus, the benefits to Michigan’s troubled economy are immense. Tourism, along with manufacturing and agriculture, is a main part of the state’s economy, and August is the second-largest month for tourism.”

Starting school after Labor Day would generate an estimated \$10 million more in tourism-related tax revenue for the state. The added tourism also would create an estimated 2,000 new jobs and between \$100 million and \$200 million in economic activity.

One recent poll out found that nearly two-thirds of Michigan voters said they supported having schools open after Labor Day, showing widespread public support for the change.

Under HB 4803, if a collective bargaining agreement conflicts with the provisions of the bill, it would not apply until after the expiration date of the collective-bargaining agreement.

The bill now goes back to the House of Representatives for consideration of Senate changes.

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